

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 11, 13-17, 20, and 21 stand rejected and claims 3, 12, and 18 are objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 10-12, and 16-18 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 7-9, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 12, and 18. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Each of independent claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,266,482 ("Yagasaki"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among the limitations of each of Applicant's independent claims is that "the values of the DCT coefficients within one block other than a DC (direct current) component and a few AC (Alternating Current) components of a low frequency region are turned to all 0 according to said attribute information."

Yagasaki fails to disclose that the means for changing orthogonal transfer coefficients turns to all 0, the values of the orthogonal transform coefficients within one block other than a DC component and a few AC components of a low frequency region, based on the attribute information. The Examiner acknowledged that this feature is not present in Yagasaki. See Final Office Action at pages 6-7. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Further, in Yagasaki, using a DCT process, the pixels in an 8x8 matrix are orthogonally transformed using DCT compression to a frequency-based signal having DCT coefficients. The DCT coefficients correspond to the signal power of the pixels in the 8x8 matrix. Key data shown in Figure 7 is used to change the data in the second block to match the key data in the first block. A third block contains correction data which corrects an anomaly caused during the compression of the DCT blocks arising from the insertion of the key data shown in Figure 7.

At no time is the entire coefficient in Yagasaki changed to zero as explicitly recited in Applicant's claim. If a DC size is zero, then a zero is entered into register 1, if the DC size is zero, then the formatter proceeds to step 8 where register 1 is set to zero by the detection circuit 33. See, column 9, lines 10-15. The LSB of the DC differential of the second block of the LSB is overwritten by the first block from the register 1. However, it should be noted that at no time is the entire register overwritten. Only the LSB is overwritten with a "1." Therefore, at no time is the coefficient changed to zero. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in light of Yagasaki.

Claims 4-6 depend from, and contain all the limitations of claim 2. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 2, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Yagasaki and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 4-6 should also be allowed.

Claims 13-15 depend from, and contain all the limitations of claim 11. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 11, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Yagasaki and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 13-15 should also be allowed.

Claims 19-21 depend from, and contain all the limitations of claim 17. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 17, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Yagasaki and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 19-21 should also be allowed.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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